

AN 10/008,365

Page 7

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending, of which claim 9-13, 16, 22 and 26-34 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-7, 14, 17 and 18 have been rejected. Claims 8, 15, 19-21 and 23-25 have been objected to but deemed to contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 1 and respectfully submits that all elected claims are allowable.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has imposed an election/restriction requirement on claims 28-34. Applicant has complied with the requirement by withdrawing claim 28-34 without traversing. Applicant reserves the right to have withdrawn claims considered upon the allowance of a generic claim if the withdrawn claims include all the limitations of the generic claim.

Claim Rejection-35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Zavilenski* (U.S. 6,371,760). Applicant has amended independent claim 1 and submits that claims 1-7, 14 and 18 are allowable over *Zavilenski*.

Claim 1 includes, among other things, the step of "forming an edge weld at the edge, such that the edge weld extends beyond the edge into the top surface of the first component and the surface of the second component." *Zavilenski* does not disclose this step. *Zavilenski* discloses a fillet weld, which does not extend into the top surface of the first component. *Zavilenski* therefore does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-7, 14 and 18 are ultimately dependent on claim 1 and thus contain additional features. Claims 2-7, 14 and 18 are therefore also not anticipated by *Zavilenski*.

Claims 1-7 and 18 were rejected under U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Fields* (U.S. 6,261,701). Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 1 requires, among other things, the step of "positioning a first component...with respect to a second component...such that the surface of the second component is in overlapping contact with the major surface of the first component". In contrast, *Fields* discloses a butt weld, with the two components in an end-to-end contact with each other. *Fields* therefore does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-7 and 18

AN 10/008,365
Page 8

are ultimately dependent on claim 1 and thus contain additional features. Claims 2-7 and 18 are therefore also not anticipated by *Fields*.

Claim 1-5, 17 and 18 were rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Albrecht* (U.S. 5,821,494). Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 1 requires, among other things, the step of "forming an edge weld at the edge, such that the edge weld extends beyond the edge into the top surface of the first component and the surface of the second component." *Albrecht* does not disclose this step. *Albrecht* discloses a soldering method, which melts the solder ball (122) but does not the components (62, 64) to be joined by soldering. As a result, the solder joint does not extend into the top surface of the top component. *Albrecht* therefore does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-5, 17 and 18 are ultimately dependent on claim 1 and thus contain additional features. Claims 2-5, 17 and 18 are therefore also not anticipated by *Fields*.

The claims rejected over prior art are therefore allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 15, 19-21 and 23-25 have been deemed to contain allowable subject matter but objected to for their dependence on rejected claims. Because the rejected claims are now believed to be allowable, the claims objected to are also now believed to be allowable without amendment.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

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